

# The Voice of Saint Anthony

## September 2023

### Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church

Reverend Father Peter Stratos

778 S. Rosemead Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107

(626) 449-6943 Office (626) 449-6974 FAX

Ecclesiastical New Year	1 September
Nativity of Holy Theotokos	8 September
Joachim & Anna	9 September
Elevation of Holy Cross	14 September
Sophia, Faith, Hope & Love	17 September
Falling Asleep of St. John	26 September

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**Elevation of the Holy Cross**

**14 September**

**Deadline for October Newsletter is Monday, 25 September**  
**Please send to: [newsletter\\_church@aol.com](mailto:newsletter_church@aol.com)**

## Message from Father Peter

*Oh Christ our God, Your kingdom is an everlasting one and your lordship is over all. You have made all things with wisdom and have established proper times and seasons for our lives.*

*We give thanks to You in all circumstances and for all things. Lord bless the beginning of the Church year with Your goodness. Grant that this liturgical year be for all of us a year of grace. Make us worthy with purity of heart always to praise you. Lord glory to you!*

Matin Hymn, September 1.

Do you know why the first day of September marks the beginning of the Church year? We are accustomed to think of January 1st as the beginning of the year. But the tradition of computing the start of a new year with the fall season was common to the lands of the Bible, and to all the lands around the Mediterranean. The summer harvest was at an end, the crops were stored, and people prepared for a new agricultural cycle. It was an appropriate time to begin a new year.

The prayers and hymns of the Orthodox Church not only recite the wonderful works of God in creation and history for our salvation but also frequently offer guidance about how to make each year a year of grace, a year of the Lord. For example, the very first hymn of the liturgical year, chanted at Vespers in the joyful first tone, reminds us that prayerful daily dependence on God is the basic attitude of the Christian life. This hymn is also interesting because it refers to another key passage in the Bible and addresses all the Orthodox faithful.

*O faithful, having learned true prayer from the very words and divine teachings of Christ, let us cry out to the Creator each day: Our Father, who dwells in heaven, give us always daily bread, and forgive us our transgressions.*

Of course this hymn refers to the prayer in the Bible which the Lord's Prayer.

As we pray the Lord's Prayer daily, allow me to also offer a meditation for us all to reflect on, as we begin the new Church ecclesiastical year:

Prayerful daily dependence on God sanctifies every moment of the day, whether we are at work, at play, at rest or in difficulty; it fills it with the presence of God and makes it God's moment. Reflect on this passage and concentrate on making a difference in your life this year through prayerful daily dependence on God.

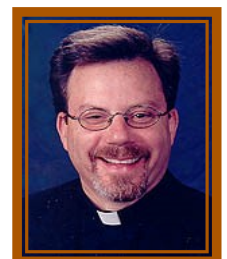
As a community, refreshed from a restful summer, we are ready to begin our new Church year. We have numerous programs and ministries available to receive God's grace and grow in our faith. Mark your calendars for Sunday **September 10**. Following services that day we will have **Youth Ministries Registration Sunday**. Lunch will be provided!

Attend church and sign up with our ministries. Attend often and take part in the life of the Church! Make this new Church year the very best it can be for us as individuals and as a spiritual family. Experience God's love and grace through this beautiful community, which He continues to greatly bless.

Happy New Year! Καλη Χρόνια!

In Christ,

Fr. Peter



# Stewardship



## 2023 Stewardship Financial Commitment

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,  
as good stewards of God's grace." (1 Peter 4:10)*

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME(S), PLEASE INCLUDE CHILDREN UNDER 18.

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PREFERRED PHONE

OTHER/SECOND PHONE

E-MAIL

*[For office use only]*

SIGNATURE

DATE

### ANNUAL GIVING LEVELS:

**\*ARCHANGEL: \$15,000 and up**

*\$288/week OR \$1,250/month & up*

**\*ANGEL: \$10,000 - \$14,999**

*\$192-\$288/week OR \$833-\$1,249/month*

**\*GUARDIAN: \$7,000 - \$9,999**

*\$135-\$192/week OR \$583-\$833/month*

**\*DISCIPLE: \$4,000 - \$6,999**

*\$77-\$135/week OR \$333-\$583/month*

**\*FAITHFUL: \$2,000 - \$3,999**

*\$38-\$77/week OR \$167-\$333/month*

**SUPPORTER: \$1,000 - \$1,999**

*\$19-\$38/week OR \$83-\$167/month*

**FRIEND: \$500 - \$999**

*\$9.60-\$19/week OR \$42-\$83/month*

**CONTRIBUTOR: \$499 & below**

*\$9.60/week OR \$42/month & below*

*Review your stewardship commitment prayerfully, consider what you offer to the Church in comparison to monthly utility/service payments.*

Please return your completed commitment card to church by Jan. 31, 2023

*Your card must be on file for you to be considered in 'Good Standing'*

**In response to God's blessings, I/we pledge a 2023 offering of:**

**My Stewardship Commitment for 2023: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**I will fulfill and pay my pledge: (CHECK ONE)**

☐ Weekly at \$ \_\_\_\_\_/week

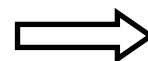
☐ Monthly at \$ \_\_\_\_\_/month

☐ Annually

Contact the Church office to set up easy recurring electronic payments

-OR- set up your own recurring giving at [saint-anthonys.churchgiving.com](http://saint-anthonys.churchgiving.com)

***\*To fully cover our operating expenses, our goal is to have our average stewardship be \$2,000 or above per family***





# Stewardship



*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's grace." (1 Peter 4:10)*

## FAQs

### Frequently Asked Questions about Stewardship:

#### **Q: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "DUES" & "STEWARDSHIP"?**

A: Yes! Three or four generations ago, it was commonplace for families throughout our Archdiocese to pay their annual "dues" or required membership fee to be a member of their local parish. Over time it was clear that this was not the healthiest way of committing to a local church as giving remained stagnant and the authentic Christian commitment of sacrificial giving became an afterthought. (note: the annual "dues" of \$300-350 *back then* would equate to roughly \$2,500-\$3,000 *today*) Stewardship, however, offers us the chance to recognize our unique blessings from God, and to give back based on what we have received. Stewardship is management of another's property, and all our blessings and gifts we have been given ultimately belong to God. We are but his caretakers, his priests, his *stewards* on this earth.

#### **Q: HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?**

A: The foundations of Christian stewardship is both from Scripture and the teachings of our Lord. You may have heard the term *titling* (the word *tithe* literally means *tenth* in Hebrew), and this refers to the biblical giving goal of 10% of your household income to your local church (*Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:25-28; Deut. 14:22-24; 2 Chron. 31:5-6*). Yet, we also hear from our Lord Jesus Christ that true giving is when we offer sacrificially "all that we have" (*Luke 21:4*), "store up your treasures in heaven" (*Matt. 6:20*), "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (*Acts 20:35*), "for God loves a cheerful giver" (*2 Cor. 9:7*). With this in mind, you are invited to prayerfully reflect on your own household income, and make your sacrificial offering based on what you receive. Consider also what you offer to Christ's Church in comparison to your monthly utility/service payments. (*"Am I giving my phone more than my Church?"*) Use the chart to the right as a guide.

Annual Income	2.5%	5%	10%	15%
\$20,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000
\$50,000	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500
\$75,000	\$1,875	\$3,750	\$7,500	\$11,250
\$100,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000
\$250,000	\$6,250	\$12,500	\$25,000	\$37,500

#### **Q: WHAT DOES MY STEWARDSHIP PAY FOR?**

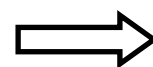
A: It costs approximately \$2,000/day to keep the church open. Most operating expenses are paid from stewardship. Some examples are mortgage, utilities, office staff and pastoral salaries, candles, permits, and facilities maintenance. Additional costs are directly related to church programs.

#### **Q: WHAT IS THE EASIEST WAY TO FULFILL MY PLEDGE?**

A: The easiest way is online! Pledging and paying online is fast and EASY and is the preferred method for many of our families. Simply go to our website [saint-anthonys.org](http://saint-anthonys.org) and click the DONATE button and this will take you to our online giving platform. Under "Regular" click the Make a Donation button, then click Create a Recurring Donation, enter your weekly/monthly/semi-annually amount and fill in the necessary information. You can always call the church office for assistance in setting up easy recurring giving payments. Paying your pledge can also be done by check, envelopes, or credit card payments, though these are not as convenient for you.

#### **Q: WHEN SHOULD I MAKE MY ANNUAL PLEDGE?**

A: We would ask you to turn in your pledge card by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Our church budget is based on our expected annual income and expenses. Forecasting stewardship in January helps meet our parish goals.



# Stewardship

**Q: I DON'T LIKE TO PAY MY PLEDGE UNTIL DECEMBER. SHOULD I STILL PLEDGE IN JANUARY?**

A: Yes. January pledging allows for effective fiscal budgeting. Pledge your annual amount, then pay weekly, monthly, semi-annually or annually.

**Q: WHY DO I HAVE TO UPDATE MY INFORMATION EVERY YEAR?**

A: We ask for updated information to provide you the opportunity to review your pledge for the upcoming year. As cost of living increases every year, so do our own parish expenses, and our giving to the church needs to adjust accordingly. We anticipate automatic online giving to become the standard in order to simplify the process.

**Q: DOESN'T THE GREEK FESTIVAL BRING IN MOST OF THE FUNDING FOR THE CHURCH?**

A: No. While the annual Pasadena Greek Fest is an important source of funding and support, it actually accounts for less than 15% of the total revenue brought in each year. Stewardship raises four times as much and is our primary source of funding for operating expenses. Ultimately, the goal is to have zero reliance on outside sources of funding, which would then make the Festival an outreach and community building opportunity, thus greatly alleviating the stress and dependency of this event.

**Q: I ALREADY PAY FOR GREEK DANCE, GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL, BASKETBALL, ETC. WHY DO I HAVE TO PAY STEWARDSHIP TOO?**

A: These programs operate independently from the church operating budget. The church provides the facility in addition to expenses enabling their operation and receives no money from these organizations. *It is also important to know that families participating in our children's ministries must be currently pledged stewards.*

**Q: IF I DONATE TO A MEMORIAL FUND, BUILDING FUND, FESTIVAL, OR EVENT, DOES THAT COUNT AS PART OF MY STEWARDSHIP?**

A: No. Your stewardship is represented entirely by your stated pledge.

**Q: IF I MAKE A NON-MONETARY DONATION TO THE CHURCH, CAN THIS REPRESENT MY STEWARDSHIP?**

A: No. Your stewardship pledge cannot be substituted for non-monetary donations. However, your various donations to the festival and the church are always greatly appreciated and are tax-deductible.

**Q: WHEN SHOULD MY CHILDREN BECOME STEWARDS?**

A: As the principles of stewardship is that of sacrificial giving from what we have received, everyone is encouraged to become a "cheerful giver" as soon as one begins to generate his/her own income.

**Q: WHAT IF I OR MY FAMILY EXPERIENCE A FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SEVERE CHANGE IN INCOME?**

A: Parishioners who are experiencing financial hardships and are unable to fulfill their stewardship obligation, but still want to be considered in "good standing", can always contact the church office, and you may always speak with one of our priests.

*Fact: With our congregation at roughly 300 families, to fully cover our operating expenses our goal is to have average stewardship be \$2,000 per family or above. Right now, 83% of our stewards are under that goal.*

# Stewardship



## Commitment of Time and Talents



Families should mark "H" for husband, "W" for wife, "C" for Children.

### Council of Ministries

_____ Acolytes	_____ Kouvouklion	_____ Stewardship Committee
_____ Bible Studies	_____ Little Lambs	_____ Studies in the Faith
_____ Bookstore	_____ Myrrh Bearers	_____ Sunday School
_____ GOYA Basketball	_____ OCF (Orthodox Christian	_____ Vacation Bible School
_____ GOYA/Jr. GOYA	_____ Fellowship)	_____ VIPs
_____ Greek Dance	_____ Office Volunteers	_____ Volleyball Tournament
_____ Greek Language School	_____ St. John Chrysostom	_____ Welcoming Committee
_____ JOY/HOPE	_____ Oratorical Festival	_____ Other

### Parish Events

_____ Palm Sunday Luncheon	_____ Resurrection Magiritsa	_____ Summer Family Picnic
_____ Pasadena Golf Classic	_____ Dinner	_____ Other
_____ Pasadena Greek Fest	_____ Saint Anthony Feast Day	

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# Ministries at Saint Anthony



## 2023 PARISH COUNCIL

Joseph Akrotirianakis	President
Pete Gallanis	Co-Vice President
Perry Vidalakis	Co-Vice President
Tashia Vagenas	Secretary
Christian Balas	Treasurer

Tony Christopoulos  
Tom Grafos  
Louie Kades  
Pete Katsafados  
Liam McCann  
Eleni Mitropoulos  
Jim Pappas  
Dino Vagenas  
Vincent Zarian  
Nikole Zoumberakis

## OFFICE STAFF

Alma Vorgias – Office Administrator



## CUSTODIAL STAFF

Carlos Sosa



## CHANTERS

Michael Kontaxis  
Liam McCann

## READERS

Nicholas Kokoris  
Rebecca Russo



## SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Sophia Syrengelas – Director

Teresa Argueta – Little Lambs, Pre-PreK

Irene Albeck, Larissa Maslen – Pre K/TK

Sophia Syrengelas – Kindergarten, 1st  
Adrianna Lareau – Kindergarten, 1st

Theoni Katsafados – 2nd, 3rd  
Vicki Kades, Jenni Nassos – 2nd, 3rd

Mary Udria, Athena Serban – 4th, 5th  
Kyriaki Tsigounis, Maria Kypreos – 4th, 5th

Polly Vagenas, Chris Syrengelas – 6th, 7th, 8th

Presvytera Aida Stratos – High School

Vicki Kades – Photographer



# Ministries at Saint Anthony continued

## PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

### Executive Board

#### **President**

Judith Din

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

Jeanne Karaionnoglou

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Helen Skandale and Lisa Xanthos

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Mary Udria and Irene Albeck

#### **Recording Secretary**

Mary Dewar

#### **Treasurer**

Connie Becker

#### **Assistant Treasurer**

Maria Grover

#### **Advisor**

Maria Kypreos

#### **Spiritual Advisor**

Father Peter Stratos

### Board of Directors

#### **Beautification**

Maria Kokoris

Maria Hronas

#### **Community Outreach**

Fontaine Malisos, Liz Skandale

Stephanie Soewers

#### **Fellowship**

Tanya Christodoulelis

Maria Kypreos

#### **Publicity**

Christine Pappas

#### **Scholarship**

Presbytera Aida Statros and Irene Albeck

#### **Social Media/Webmaster**

Sophia Syrengelas

#### **Sunshine and Visitation**

Fontaine Malisos, Liz Skandale

Stephanie Soewers

#### **Union Station**

Irene Albeck and Stephanie Soewers

#### **Operation Classroom**

Nicolette Fuerst and Jennifer Webster



## ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES

### Acolytes

Pres Aida Stratos

### Bible Study

Fr. Peter Stratos

### Bookstore

Noah Johnson

### Golf Tournament

Jimmy Christos

### GOYA

Anthia Drulias Lucas  
Maria Katsas Gittings  
Polly Vagenas

### GOYA Basketball

Pana Gelt

### GOYA Volleyball

Anthia Lucas  
Pana Gelt

### Greek Dance Groups

Nikole Zoumberakis

### Greek Festival

Christian Balas

### Greek Language

Anastasia McClain

### JOY/HOPE

Irene Albeck

### Myrrh Bearers

Irene Albeck

### Oratorical Festival

Pres Aida Stratos

### Prayer Shawls

Maria Kypreos

### Psalter Group

Fr. Peter Stratos

### Vacation Bible School

Sophia Syrengelas  
Mary Udria

### VIPs

Irene Albeck





## Parish Council Happenings

**Save the Date**



**September 30 – October 1**

**See flyer – page 22**



"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."  
John 15:5.

PLEASE REGISTER FOR CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES  
ON SEPTEMBER 10TH

Please be sure to mark your calendar! Bring your children to the first day of Sunday School on **Sunday, September 17th**! There will be a registration event for Youth Ministries on Sunday, **September 10th** where everyone will have the opportunity to sign up for Sunday School and all of the other wonderful programs provided for our youth here at St. Anthony.

In an effort to have strong communication with families, we kindly ask that parents fill out a registration form with updated information for all students. These forms will be available at Registration Sunday, and from your child's teacher after classes resume.

We are anxious to see our classrooms filled with students again and hope that everyone had a wonderful summer break!

For further information or questions, please contact **Sophia Syrengelas**: [sophiajammie@gmail.com](mailto:sophiajammie@gmail.com)

## Youth & Young Adults

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

# YAL CONFERENCE

*Fulfill 2023*



LABOR DAY WEEKEND

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 4

HYATT REGENCY ORANGE COUNTY

Enjoy a weekend of fellowship, service, and worship - along with exploring all that SoCal has to offer!

[www.sanfran.goarch.org/YAL](http://www.sanfran.goarch.org/YAL)

*Spots are filling up fast!  
Register today!*





Youth & Young Adults continued



# FIRST GOYA MEETING OF THE YEAR!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH  
AFTER CHURCH AT 12:15 IN  
THE HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASSROOM

AGES 12 AND UP

SEE YOU THERE!



## Youth & Young Adults continued

### St. Anthony G.O.Y.A.

#### 2023-2024 New Advisors

St. Anthony is very fortunate to announce that two very capable and willing ladies have stepped forward to take over as our new G.O.Y.A. advisors. We wish to formally thank **Vicki Kadas and Mary Udria** for their time as G.O.Y.A. advisors. Both these ladies have served and dedicated many years to this very important ministry of our church. Both Mary and Vicki will still be important in helping guide our programs.

#### Maria Katsas-Gittings

Maria is a life-long St. Anthony parishioner who has served in Greek School and GOYA. She grew up in Alhambra and now resides in Pasadena, with her husband Bryan and daughters Katerina and Dimitra. Maria was a St. Anthony GOYAN and remembers when GOYA ran their own ice cream booth at the festivals when they were held at Santa Anita Race Track!

Maria volunteered as a student leader throughout junior high, high school and college. She planned student events and presided over various student groups. She served as an RA and a hall advisor, mentoring students through their college experience. She also served as the Director of Student Activities, Housing and Residential life. Maria now serves as the Executive Director of Auxiliaries at Caltech which includes housing, dining and their campus bookstore. She has advised and mentored students for over 30 years and looks forward to serving in this very vital ministry of our community!

#### Politimi (Polly) Vagenas

Polly grew up in Yorba Linda and attended St. John's in Anaheim where she participated in Greek School, dance and GOYA Basketball. She still resides in Yorba Linda with her husband George Vagenas and their three children, Alexi, John and Sia.

Polly has always had a passion for working with teenagers. Throughout high school and college she was a "Big Sister," mentor and volunteered to work with various nonprofit organizations in California, Arizona and Mexico. After college, Polly attended Fuller Theological Seminary with a focus on Youth and Family. During this time, she loved learning about her faith and since then has been having a lot of fun teaching Sunday School in Middle School here at St. Anthony's. She looks forward to energizing her students about their faith every Sunday morning. Polly is very excited to be a part of the St. Anthony GOYA ministry in the coming year. She is committed to ensure our teenagers never forget how important they are to God, their family, the community and to each other!

#### Anthia Drulias-Lucas

Anthia will serve as mentor and senior advisor to our Youth programs. Her involvement at St. Anthony's includes serving as St. Anthony GOYA President, Jr. Advisor, Advisor, YAL President and Basketball coach. Currently she serves as the GOYA Basketball commissioner for Southern California. As an educator for over 40 years, Anthia has worked with elementary, middle and high school students. Her passion however, has always been middle school. After teaching 5<sup>th</sup> graders, for 9 years Anthia became the Student Activities Director, where she wore many hats, teaching a variety of subjects as well as P.E. and coaching after school sports. As Activity Director she was responsible for all ASB activities, fundraising, organizing the East Coast trip, Leadership Camps and all extra activities for grades 5-8.

# Philoptochos

## Good Works

### *Friends In Deed*

In August, Philoptochos donated school supplies including paper, pens, pencils, notebooks, and crayons, to the Back to School Program at Friends In Deed in Pasadena.

### *Union Station Homeless Service (USHS)*

Philoptochos is continuing the monthly commitment to USHS by preparing a hardy, nutritious dinner made possible through the generosity of our donors. USHS has requested packaged dessert (cookies), single serve beverages (10 oz.), and single serve bottles of milk. You may continue to volunteer by donating towards the purchase of individual packaged items.

The estimated costs are: Chicken - \$75, Rolls - \$15, Dessert - \$17, and Beverages - \$40.

We are also in need of donations to help offset our costs of large aluminum pans with lids.

We invite you to consider helping us feed the needy by making a contribution.

Thank you to all our donors for their support.

**Please make checks out to: *Philoptochos of Saint Anthony*.**

**Please write USHS on the memo line.**

Thank you for being a part of the solution to homelessness.

### **For further information, please contact:**

Sophia Angelos	sangelos2000@gmail.com	626-795-0848 (home)
Stephanie Soewers	szanglis@gmail.com	818-209-5026 (cell)
Irene Albeck	mcmg2a@aol.com	626-792-8122

**“You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.”  
Deuteronomy 15:11**



## Philoptochos continued

### Community Happenings

#### *St. Anthony's Coffee Hour is coordinated by St. Anthony Philoptochos*

Host a Coffee Hour and Celebrate a Birthday, Anniversary, Nameday, Graduation, Loved One, or for any reason. A sign-up poster has been placed in the foyer of the Parish Community Center. Please sign up or contact Tanya Christodoulelis at 626-379-2304. Thank you for your support.

**Please contact the Church office if you need to schedule a Memorial and if you wish to host the Social Hour on that Sunday.**

#### *Upcoming Meetings*

##### *Christmas Benefit 2023 Planning Committee*

Tuesday, September 5, 7PM. held in the hall.

We invite you to be part of this fun group of talented women who annually plan our largest fundraiser of the year. All are welcome to join this planning committee. Our event will be held at The Langham Huntington Hotel on **Saturday, December 2, 2023.**

##### *September Board Meeting*

Wednesday, September 13, 7PM

##### *General Meeting*

WELCOME BACK POTLUCK DINNER

Philoptochos Hawaiian Luau

Wednesday, September 20, at 6:30 PM

Trinity Ballroom, Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church

We will be collecting monetary donations to support the fire victims in Maui. Donations will go directly to the Greek Orthodox Mission in Maui. Looking forward to seeing all of you. The evite for this potluck dinner will be coming out soon.

If you have any questions, then call Jeanne Karaioannoglou at mobile: 626-437-6078.

### National Events

#### *Children's Medical Fund Luncheon*

Saturday, November 11, 2023 - Hilton Americas, Houston, Texas.

For more information and tickets, go to our website: <https://www.philoptochos.org/cmf-3/>

## Philoptochos continued

### JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS and BECOME A SUPERHERO

Our 2023 Membership Drive has begun and we invite you to join us in our important work. We encourage all women, 18 years and older to join Philoptochos. Men and non-Orthodox women may also join as associate members. Your participation in this ministry can make a difference to so many lives. Please see letter next page:

- Membership Letter
- Charities
- Membership Form



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: St. Anthony Philoptochos  
Instagram: stanthonypiloptochos



## Philoptochos continued



### PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

778 South Rosemead Boulevard • Pasadena, California 91107

April 22, 2023

*"Lord, When Did We See You Hungry and Feed You, Or Thirsty and Give You Drink? When Did We See You a Stranger and Take You In, Or Naked and Clothe You? When Did We See You Sick or In Prison and Come to You?... Inasmuch As You Did It to One of The Least Of These My Brethren, You Did It to Me." Matthew 25 37:40*

Dear St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Ladies,

Did you know that Philoptochos was established **90 years** ago by Archbishop Athenagoras as the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Church of America? In those 90 years, our mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers have been instrumental in making the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society one of the largest women's philanthropic religious organizations in the United States.

Our Chapter is currently holding a membership drive. We invite you to renew and encourage every woman in our parish, 18 years of age or older, to become a member of Philoptochos and fulfill our philanthropic mission to help the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, those with disabilities and victims of disasters. Men are also welcome to join as an Associate member. When we combine our strengths and skills, great things can happen!

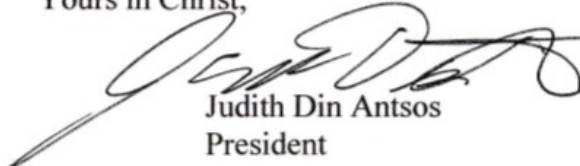
As we embark on a new year, we want to share with you our charitable efforts. Please see the reverse side to see the many charities we support locally, Nationally and through our San Francisco Metropolis. Our 2022 Christmas Benefit Luncheon chose IOCC as our featured charity with funds specifically earmarked for the Ukraine Relief Fund.

In 2021, National Philoptochos disbursed close to \$1,800,000 to those in need. Last year, our Panagia Chapter donated more than \$28,000 to our local charities.

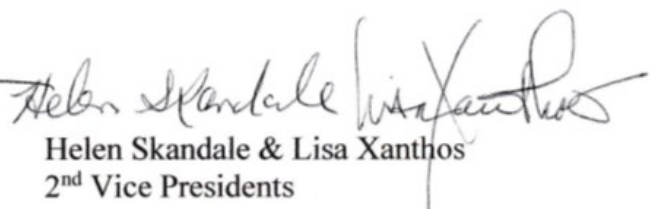
Please, renew or join by mail: enclose your registration form and check payable to St. Anthony Philoptochos, St. Anthony Philoptochos, 778 S. Rosemead Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107. To process online: (go to <https://stanthonyphiloptochos.square.site> and scroll down to Annual Membership Dues).

For those of you who have been members, we thank you for your many years of support and devotion and, to all prospective new members, we hope you will join us in our mission of philanthropic endeavors.

Yours in Christ,



Judith Din Antsos  
President



Helen Skandale & Lisa Xanthos  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents

## Philoptochos continued

*The following charities are supported by St. Anthony Philoptochos:*

### ***Chapter Charities***

CAST, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking  
 City of Hope  
 Friends in Deed  
 Foothill Unity Center  
 Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology Seminarians  
 Kids 'n' Cancer/Camp Agape  
 Operation Classroom  
 Pasadena City College Lancer Pantry  
 Pasadena Unified School District/Foster Care Children  
 Project Mexico Orphanage  
 Social Services/Emergency assistance to individuals within our community  
 Scholarships for College Bound Students  
 Ukraine Relief Fund of the International Orthodox Christian Charities  
 Union Station Homeless Services

### ***San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos Programs & Charities***

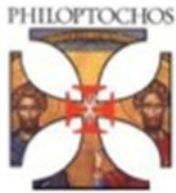
Bishop Anthony Student Aid Endowment Fund [BAPSAEF]  
 Emergency Relief Fund/Social Welfare  
 Kids n' Cancer/Camp Agape  
 Saint Nicholas Ranch  
 Support a Seminarian  
 Women's Health & Wellness

### ***National Philoptochos Programs & Charities***

Academy of Saint Basil  
 Autism Assistance Fund  
 Cancer Fund  
 Children Medical Fund  
 Ecumenical Patriarchate  
 Emergency Fund  
 General Medical Fund  
 Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology  
 International Orthodox Christian Charities [IOCC]  
 National Sisterhood of Presbyteres Benevolent Fund  
 Operation Classroom  
 Orthodox Christian Fellowship  
 Orthodox Christian Mission Center & Support a Mission Priest  
 Retired Clergy & Widowed Presbyteres Benevolent Fund  
 Saint Photios Shrine  
 Saint Nicholas Shrine  
 Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Founders Fund  
 Social Services  
 United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund [UNICEF]



# Philoptochos continued



## PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH PANAGIA CHAPTER

### PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ 2023 Philoptochos Membership ☐ 2023 Associate Membership (Men / Non-Voting) Date \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name	First Name	Spouse Name	M.I.
Street Address			
City	State	Zip	
Home Phone	Cell Phone		
Email			
Notices will be sent via email. If you prefer your notices mailed, please, let us know by checking here <input type="checkbox"/>			
St. Anthony's Philoptochos Stewardship (membership dues). Select amount below:			
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125 <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Each \$50 stewardship supports National Philoptochos (\$15), San Francisco Metropolis (\$15) and St. Anthony Philoptochos obligations and projects (\$20). <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/> Cash			
I am interested in helping with the following:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Feeding the Hungry	<input type="checkbox"/> Hosting Fellowship	<input type="checkbox"/> Marketing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Delivering Meals to Parishioners	<input type="checkbox"/> Baking & Cooking	<input type="checkbox"/> Website Designer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Homebound Visitations	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Talents	
<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Tree	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Specify	



### 2023 PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Your continued generosity allows Philoptochos to provide financial assistance and outreach to those in need. We invite you to renew your membership or become a new member as we endeavor to do our philanthropic work. Join us as we strive to fulfill the word of Christ.

*".. whatever you did for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did for me" - Matthew 25:30*

**PLEASE RENEW OR JOIN BY MAIL (Check payable to: Saint Anthony Philoptochos Society)**

**Mail your check along with this form to:**

**Saint Anthony Philoptochos Society, Attention: Membership  
778 South Rosemead Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107**

**or pay online at <https://stanthonyphiloptochos.square.site>  
Scroll down to "Annual Membership Dues"**

**For more information or questions, please contact Lisa Xanthos (626) 222-4374 or Helen Skandale (818) 618-4963**

## Philoptochos continued



### COFFEE HOUR FELLOWSHIP



**Host a Coffee Hour and celebrate a Birthday, Anniversary, Name Day, Graduation, Loved One, as a Family Activity or for any reason!**

Every Sunday following the Divine Liturgy, coffee hour in the Parish Hall provides an opportunity to visit with fellow parishioners and to greet new Parish members. By offering to host a Coffee Hour Fellowship, you are assisting in providing a delicious snack while we spend time with our church family.

Hosting is as easy as 1-2-3:

1. **Sign-up on the poster located in the Parish Hall or Church Office.** To be included in the bulletin, notify the Church Office by the Wednesday prior to the date chosen at 626.449.6943 or by email [office@saint-anthonys.org](mailto:office@saint-anthonys.org)

For Memorials, you must notify the Church Office by the Wednesday prior to the date chosen at 626.449.6943 or by email [office@saint-anthonys.org](mailto:office@saint-anthonys.org)

2. **Bring snacks for 75 adults and kids** – Suggestions include: assorted Bagels, Muffins, Cakes, Cookies, Mini Deli Sandwiches, Cheese & Crackers, Olives, Dolmades, Hummus, Tzatziki, Pita, Raw Vegetables, Fruit, Salads, Oatmeal or anything you prefer
3. **Bring food items plated on serving trays/bowls and ready to serve by 10:30am on your chosen day.** (Serving tables and coffee/water station are set up by 10:00am)

That's it! Your fellow parishioners will be grateful for the snack and fellowship.

Philoptochos provides the coffee, sugar, creamer, paper plates, plastic utensils and napkins or you may choose to donate these items to help offset the cost.

For questions, please call or email Tanya Christodoulelis at 626.379.2304 or [tanyachristos@yahoo.com](mailto:tanyachristos@yahoo.com).

**All cash donations made during Coffee Hour go toward the Church Altar Fund to provide the items needed throughout the year for the altar.**



## VIP News

As the month of September sees autumn approaching and marks the beginning of a new Ecclesiastical Year for our community, the VIPs look forward to some activities and events that promise to be uniquely exciting and entertaining.

Storyland Productions and the Pasadena Civic Ballet, under the direction of our own Tanya Grafos and Zoe Vidalakis will be presenting *"Wander Through Wonderland"*, an immersive theater presentation at the Shakespeare Club of Pasadena located at 171 South Grand Avenue in Pasadena.

Based on the Lewis Carroll classic story "Alice in Wonderland," this production will be presented in a format that will include, or immerse, the audience into the show to make choices that will actually affect the rest of the experience. With this type of format, attendees will feel like they participated in the story rather than just viewing a play. In this 90-minute trip down the rabbit hole, we will enjoy a performance with more than ten Wonderland characters including the White Rabbit and Mad Hatter.

*Wander Through Wonderland* will be playing from September 13<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup> and General Admission is \$39.00, which includes one entrance to the *Wander Through Wonderland* experience. A VIP experience is available for \$78.00 and includes the *Wander Through Wonderland* experience, preferred performance seating, and a ticket to the *Mad Hatter Tea*.

For all of us who remember attending the premiere of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* in 2002, and the sequel in 2016, it's now time to gather together for a theatrical outing to see *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3* which was filmed in Greece and will be in theaters beginning September 8.

Plans to set firm dates for attending *Wander Through Wonderland* at the Shakespeare Club of Pasadena and *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3* will be discussed at our upcoming meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> in the Community Center. At that meeting we'll also have the opportunity to recognize our members who will celebrate birthdays in September, including:

Jim Kolokotronis	Bertha Patsavas
Maria Kypreos	Yiota Poulos
Kathy Lucas	Valerie Vallas
Zachary Vorgias	

All members are advised to monitor e-mails sent out from the church office regarding food and pastry preparation in anticipation of our **Pasadena GreekFest**, which will be held on the church grounds on Saturday and Sunday, **September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>**. Please pitch in where you can to help make the return of the Pasadena GreekFest a great success.

And finally, you are reminded that the Family Wellness Ministry of the San Francisco Metropolis is presenting a **Royal Adventure Senior Resort Camp** for adults 50 years and older that will be held at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA from Monday **September 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday September 29<sup>th</sup>**. For more information on this senior resort camp, please call Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in Fresno, CA at 559-233-0397.

Welcome back VIPs and Happy New Ecclesiastical Year!!

Jim Hronas

VIP Communications

## What is New in the Community?

# PASADENA GREEK FEST

**SEPTEMBER 30 & OCTOBER 1**  
**NOON - 10PM**

SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
778 South Rosemead Boulevard, Pasadena

AUTHENTIC GREEK FOOD & PASTRIES • GREEK WINE & SPIRITS  
GREEK MUSIC & FOLK DANCING • CHURCH TOURS • KID ZONE

### ADMISSION

Adults: \$5 | 5 for \$20  
Children under 12: Free

### PARKING & SHUTTLE SERVICE

from GATE 3 of the  
SANTA ANITA  
RACE TRACK  
Huntington & Holly

[www.pasadenagreekfest.com](http://www.pasadenagreekfest.com)



## What is New in the Community? continued

Dearest Community Members,

We are so excited that we will be having our first full festival in years. This festival is our opportunity to share our faith, culture and philoxenia with all of those who attend. More importantly it is our opportunity to work together towards a common unified goal and to model for our next generation the importance of participation in the work of the church.

Festival **cooking preparation** has begun and will continue through this month until the festival weekend September 30th and October 1st.

Please see the schedule below.

We will be launching a **festival needs campaign** along with **booth sponsorship** and **festival sponsorship** opportunities. We will also be launching a **signup and shift schedule** for the festival weekend.

Support for the festival comes in many ways, time, talent and financial. If you can support the festival financially, any amount is helpful to St. Anthony's church and keeping our faith and culture alive for future generations. Donations of food and paper products for the festival are much appreciated and needed as well.

Please reach out and let us know how you would like to help by contacting your 2023 Festival Team Members:

Christian 626.340.7374    Anthia 626.274.6133    Julie 626.390.1149    Church office 626.449.6943

We are looking forward to working with all of you.

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### 2023 GREEK FESTIVAL FOOD & PASTRY PREPARATION SCHEDULE

Tuesday, September 5	Tiropita
Wednesday, September 6	Tiropita
Thursday, September 7	Spanakopita
Sunday, September 10	Dolmathes (after church)
Week of September 11 <sup>th</sup>	Pastries
Week of September 18 <sup>th</sup>	Pastries
Week of September 25 <sup>th</sup>	Pastries

Cooking will start at 9:00 am and lunch will be provided. Ending times vary depending on the items being prepared and the number of volunteers that attend. If you would like to bring lunch, please just let us know 626.390.1149.

Please join us, even if you only have a couple of hours. We can't do it without you! We look forward to seeing you.



## What is New in the Community? continued



### Sponsors and Booth Adoption

*as of this printing*

Baklava	\$ 900	Harry & Anastasia Panagiot (partial)
Bar	\$3,500	
Chicken Souvlaki	\$3,000	Dupas & Balas Families
Dinner Line	\$6,000	
Dolmathes	\$ 750	
Feta Fries	\$ 900	
Galaktoboureko	\$ 600	VIPs
Greek Band	\$6,500	
Greek Salad	\$ 800	Dr. Michael Patzakis
Gyro	\$4,500	
Kids' Zone	\$2,500	
Lamb Chops	\$4,500	
Loukoumathes	\$2,500	In memory of Philip & Maryann Attalla
Moonlight Bar	\$3,500	Vidalakis Family
Moussaka	\$ 900	Stephanie & Robert Vezzuto
Pastitsio	\$ 900	Kypreos & Soris Families
Soda	\$2,000	
Souvlakia	\$3,000	
Spanakopita	\$ 800	Dr. Michael Patzakis
Tiropita	\$ 600	Skandale Family

Please sign up in the church hall or contact:

Anthia - 626.274.6133 adljsl02@yahoo.com

Julie - 626.390.1149 juliekiotas@gmail.com

Support GreekFest '23 - Any donation accepted...



## What is New in the Community? continued

### Upcoming Church Festivals - 2023

#### September



Long Beach	9/2-4
Covina	9/23-24
SanJuanCapo	9/23-24
<b>Pasadena</b>	<b>9/30-10/1</b>



#### PRAYER BEFORE READING HOLY SCRIPTURES

Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel.

Instill in us, also, reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all these things that are pleasing to You.

For You are the Light of our souls and bodies and to You we give glory together with Your Father Who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Amen.**

#### STAND UP FOR JESUS

In the Orthodox Church tradition, the faithful stand through nearly the entire service. We show respect and attentiveness when we stand or kneel. Therefore, as a community of faithful, we collectively stand or kneel at the following moments of worship:

The Small Entrance with the Gospel  
Gospel reading

The Great Entrance with the Holy Gifts  
Proclamation of the Creed

Consecration of the Holy Gifts

– *the transformation to the Precious Body and Blood of Christ by the descent of the Holy Spirit, at which time we also kneel (except for 50 days after Pascha)*

Lord's Prayer

Communion Prayers

Holy Communion

Dismissal Prayers

Love for God and for one's neighbor, go together and cannot be divorced. With silence, tolerance and prayer we benefit others in a mystical way.

Let our love be only in Christ. In order to benefit others you must live in the love of God, otherwise you are unable to do good to your fellow man. You mustn't pressurize the other person. His time will come, as long as you pray for him. With silence, tolerance and above all by prayer we benefit others in a mystical way. The grace of God clears the horizon of his mind and assures him of His love. Here is the fine point. As soon as he accepts that God is love, then abundant light such as he has never seen will come upon him.

Thus he will find salvation.

*St. Porphyrios (1906-1991)*

## What is New in the Community? continued

2023

**Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church**

2024

# Greek Dance

**SUNDAYS, STARTING AUG 20TH**



Groups available for adults and children  
starting as young as 4 years old

**Parent Information Meeting, Aug 20th at 12PM**

**ENROLL ONLINE**

<https://forms.gle/EPHYbTjrycRfHjSy6>

For more information, contact  
[stanthonysdance@gmail.com](mailto:stanthonysdance@gmail.com)

## What is New in the Community? continued



### Bowling League News Fall Season 2023

The St. Anthony Bowling League will begin their  
Fall Season on a **new night!**

**Thursday, September 7**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Bowlero Lanes in Pasadena**

The fall season will continue for 11 weeks, ending on **Thursday, November 16, 2023.**

If you are interested in joining, please call Anthia.

Sincerely,

Anthia Drulias-Lucas

[ADLJSL02@YAHOO.COM](mailto:ADLJSL02@YAHOO.COM)

626.274-6133 (call or text)





## What is New in the Community? continued


# The Voice of Saint Anthony

## January 2023

### Saint AnthonyY Greek Orthodox Church

Reverend Father Peter Stratos  
 778 S. Rosemead Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107  
 (626) 449-6943 Office (626) 449-6974 FAX  
[www.saint-anthonys.org](http://www.saint-anthonys.org)

St. Basil	
Circumcision of Christ	Jan 1
Holy Epiphany	Jan 6
Synaxis - John the Baptist	Jan 7
St. Anthony the Great	Jan 17
Athanasios & Cyril	Jan 18
Euthymios the Great	Jan 20
Gregory the Theologian	Jan 25
Synaxis of Three Hierarchs	Jan 30



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Stewardship	3
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Parish Council	9
Sunday School	10
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**Deadline for February Newsletter is Wednesday, 25 January**  
**Please send to: [newsletter\\_church@aol.com](mailto:newsletter_church@aol.com)**

*If you would like the monthly newsletter mailed to your home each month, please contact the Church office.*

**626.449.6943**

## Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis...

### Reconditioning Ourselves

*And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.*

I Kings 19: 11-12

In a room full of people, the loudest voice is the one that is heard. In a group full of singers, the one closest to the microphone is the one that is heard the most. The world is trying to recondition us, by drowning out God's voice. The world has redefined the Sabbath—it is no longer holy. Sundays used to be preserved for worship and family. Now Sunday is a sports day, the number of people who worship each week nationwide is down, and the family unit is being ripped apart. The world has redefined marriage. Yes, there is the whole same-sex marriage argument, but it's even more than that. People live together without being married, which undermines love and commitment, and ultimately intimacy. It's the ultimate expression of "I'm not sure you are really enough." Because it is convenient acceptance rather than complete acceptance. We've redefined the sanctity of life, by making it easy to terminate a life that is not wanted. In fact, we demand and celebrate our ability to do this. Life, when it begins, how it ends, and what we do with it, is not seen as holy, but as disposable, which is why so many people are so reckless. We're trying to redefine gender, as if God makes mistakes, or as if God didn't deliberately create two distinct genders. We are redefining intelligence. You can now type in a request and some artificial intelligence will write your term paper or Sunday sermon in the way it wants to.

We are created after God's image and likeness, with God-giving intelligence that is real and not artificial. We are abrogating our intelligence in a way that doesn't show humility but rather shows laziness –Let something else do the work. This will ultimately lead to even more anxiety thinking you are not good enough. And after we redefine intelligence, after we've redefined the Sabbath, marriage, life and gender, there will be nothing left to do but to redefine God as an entity that revolves around us, rather than the center around Who we revolve. And what has this gotten us? We've never felt more isolation, loneliness, anxiety and shame. Because we've taken Him from the center and put ourselves in His place. And we've forgotten that real contentment and real intimacy comes from having Him at the center.



## Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis...

I've often used the analogy of the boiling frogs, who were either too ignorant or too lazy to jump out of the pot of water they were in until it was too late and they boiled to death. We're at this point in our society. We're about to boil. So we need to turn the heat down and jump out, before we're all cooked. And we need to jump not to another political cause or protest about our perceived rights. We need to jump to Jesus, the light that shines in the darkness, that no darkness can overtake. This is the only way to turn down the boiling water and make it tranquil once again.

I did an exercise with our staff at summer camp called "Letters to Jesus." Each person wrote a short letter to Jesus. We put them in a pile, no names on them, then we each took a letter – not our own – and we read them aloud as a prayer. This exercise was heart-breaking because of the sorrowful things written. But more than that, it was refreshing, because it was so honest and so raw. This too, was an intimate moment, because it was safe and honest, and it put Him at the center. So as we begin a new school year, perhaps take out a piece of paper and write your own letter to Jesus. Tell Him how you really feel about Him, and about life. And ask Him, in your letter, to move you towards a state of contentment, so that you will feel like He is enough, you will feel like you are enough, and so that you can feel like it is enough. And this will be a valuable first step towards getting to the place where you are "always blessed."

The loudest voice wins. The voices of the endless news cycle, the voices of discontentment, the voices that make us feel we have to keep up, and the internal voice that makes us feel anxious and isolated—none of these voices can match the voice of the Lord if we let Him be the loudest voice. Here's the thing though, Elijah heard God's voice we are told, in I Kings 19, not in the strong wind, or in an earthquake, not in a raging fire. He heard God in a small voice. I saw God at summer camp, not in the busyness of the schedule, not in the disappointments and challenges, not even in the frivolity and fun. I saw God in the faces of others when there was no agenda, when there was intimacy, when there was complete acceptance. And I saw God when I stopped looking down at my schedule and my agenda and when I looked up and saw Him in His majesty.

We can only control our own lives.

Think about the things in your life that need some reconditioning so that you are more Christ-centered.





## Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis...

*Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications!*

*In Thy faithfulness answer me in Thy righteousness!*

*Enter not into judgment with Thy servant; for no man living is righteous before Thee.*

*For the enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit  
in darkness like those long dead.*

*Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.*

*I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that Thou hast done; I muse on what Thy  
hands have wrought.*

*I stretch out my hands to Thee; my soul thirsts for Thee like a parched land.*

*Make haste to answer me, O Lord! My spirit fails!*

*Hide not Thy face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the Pit.*

*Let me hear in the morning of thy steadfast love, for in Thee I put my trust.*

*Teach me the way I should go, for to Thee I lift up my soul.*

*Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies! I have fled to Thee for refuge!*

*Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God!*

*Let Thy good spirit lead me on a level path!*

*For Thy name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life!*

*In Thy righteousness bring me out of trouble!*

*And in Thy steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries,  
for I am Thy servant.*

**Psalm 143**



## Feasts and Saints for this month

### Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year

#### September 01

Saint Constantine the Great introduced the Indiction decrees in 312A.D. after he beheld the sign of the Cross in heaven and was proclaimed Emperor in the West. Some, however (and this seems more likely), ascribe the institution of the Indiction to Augustus Caesar, three years before the birth of Christ.

There are three types of Indictions:

- a) That which was introduced in the West, and which is called Imperial, or Caesarean, or Constantinian, which begins on the 24th of September
- b) The so-called Papal Indiction, which begins on the 1st of January
- c) The Constantinopolitan, which was adopted by the Patriarchs of that city after the fall of the Eastern Empire in 1453. This Indiction is indicated in their own hand on the decrees they issue.

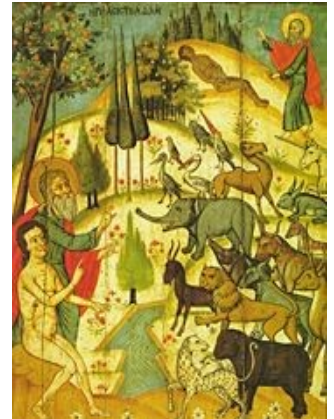
This Indiction begins on the **1st of September** and is observed with special ceremony in the Church. Since the completion of each year takes place, as it were, with the harvest and gathering of the crops into storehouses, and we begin the sowing of seed in the earth for the production of future crops, September is considered the beginning of the New Year.

The Church also keeps festival this day, beseeching God for fair weather, seasonable rains, and an abundance of the fruits of the earth. The Holy Scriptures (Lev. 23:24-5 and Num. 29:1-2) also testify that the people of Israel celebrated the feast of the Blowing of the Trumpets on this day, offering hymns of thanksgiving.

In addition to all the aforesaid, on this feast we also commemorate our Savior's entry into the synagogue in Nazareth, where He was given the book of the Prophet Esaias to read, and He opened it and found the place where it is written, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, for which cause He hath anointed Me..."* (Luke 4:16-30).

It should be noted that to the present day, the Church has always celebrated the beginning of the New Year on September 1. This was the custom in Constantinople until its fall in 1453 and in Russia until the reign of Peter I. September 1 is still festively celebrated as the New Year at the Patriarchate of Constantinople; among the Jews also the New Year, although reckoned according to a moveable calendar, usually falls in September.

The service of the Menaion for January 1 is for our Lord's Circumcision and for the memorial of Saint Basil the Great, without any mention of its being the beginning of a new year.



## Feasts and Saints for this month continued

### The Nativity of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

**September 08**

According to the ancient tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was born of barren and aged parents, Joachim and Anna, about the year 16 or 17 before the birth of Christ. Joachim was descended from the royal line of David, of the tribe of Judah. Anna was of the priestly tribe of Levi, a daughter of the priest Matthan and Mary, his wife.



### The Holy & Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna

**September 09**

On the day following the Nativity of the most holy Theotokos, we celebrate the Synaxis of Saints Joachim and Anna, honoring them as her parents.

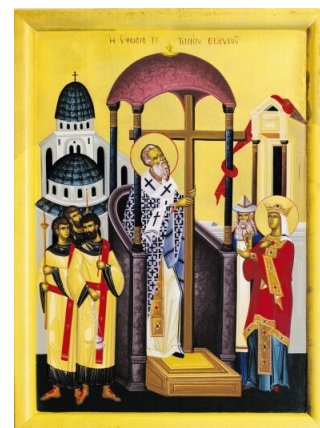


### Exaltation of the Holy Cross / Saint Stauros

**September 14**

Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. After finding the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation.

At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high for all to venerate.



### Sophia, Faith, Hope, Love

**September 17**

These Saints were from Italy and contested for the Faith about the year 126, during the reign of the Emperor Hadrian. Faith was twelve years old, Hope, ten, and Love, nine; each was tormented and then beheaded, from the eldest to the youngest. Their mother Sophia mourned at their grave for three days, where she also fell asleep in peace; because of her courageous endurance in the face of her daughters' sufferings, she is also counted a martyr. The name Sophia means "wisdom" in Greek; as for her daughters' names, Faith, Hope, and Love (Charity), they are Pistis, Elpis, and Agape in Greek.





## Feasts and Saints for this month continued

### Falling Asleep of Saint John the Theologian

September 26

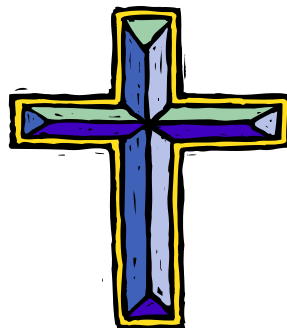
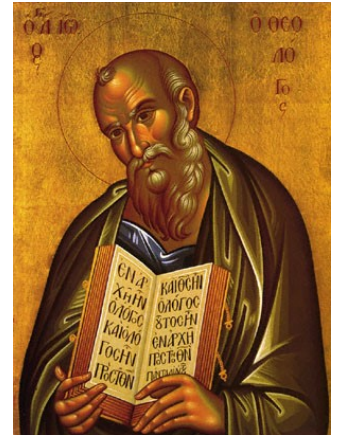
This Apostle was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and was the son of Zebedee and Salome, and the brother of James the elder. First a fisherman by trade, he became an Apostle and the beloved Disciple of Christ. Only he of all the Disciples followed Him even to the Cross, and was entrusted with the care of our Savior's Mother, as it were another son to her, and a brother of Christ the Teacher.

After this, he preached throughout Asia Minor, especially in Ephesus. When the second persecution against the Christians began in the year 96 during the reign of Domitian, he was taken in bonds to Rome, and there was cast into a vat filled to the brim with boiling oil. Coming forth unharmed, he was exiled to the island of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelation. Returning again to Ephesus after the death of the tyrant, he wrote his Gospel (after the other Evangelists had already written theirs) and his three Catholic Epistles.

In all, he lived ninety-five years and fell asleep in the Lord during the reign of Trajan in the year 100. He was called Theologian because he loftily expounded in his Gospel the theology of the inexpressible and eternal birth of the Son and Word of God the Father. It is for this cause that an eagle is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.















Saint Irenaeus says: *It is depicted in his icon, for this was one of the four symbolic living creatures that the Prophet Ezekiel saw.*

As stated in Ezekial 1:10



# Orthodox Calendar

## September 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					 1 <b>Ecclesiastical New Year</b>	2
3 <b>13th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 12:15 Greek Dance Prac Indoor & Live-stream	4 Church Office closed for Labor Day	5	 6 7pm Philoptochos Union Station Outreach	7 7pm Philoptochos Benefit Meeting	 8 <b>Nativity of Holy Theotokos</b> 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy	9 <b>Joachim &amp; Anna</b>
10 <b>Sunday before the Holy Cross</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Youth Ministry Day 12:15 Greek Dance Prac 12:15 GOYA Meeting Sunday School register Indoor & Live-stream	11	12 10:30am VIPs Mtg 7pm Parish Council	 13 7pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	 14 <b>The Elevation of the Holy Cross</b> 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy	 15	16
17 <b>Sunday after the Holy Cross</b> <b>Sophia, Faith, Hope, and Love</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Sunday School begins 12:15 Greek Dance Prac Indoor & Live-stream	18	19	 20 7pm Philoptochos General Meeting and Potluck dinner	21	 22	23
24 <b>1st Sunday of Luke</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 12:15 Greek Dance Prac Indoor & Live-stream	25	26 <b>Falling Asleep of Saint John Evangelist and Theologian</b>	 27	28	 29	30 <b>Greek Festival</b>
		<b>Strict Fast</b> Refrain from Meat, Fish, Wine, Oil, Dairy & Eggs 	<b>Fish, Wine &amp; Oil Allowed</b> 	<b>Wine and Oil Allowed</b> 	<b>Dairy, Eggs, &amp; Fish Allowed; Refrain from Meat</b> 	<b>Fast Free</b>



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TIME SENSITIVE

*To generations of our descendants yet unknown to you, who some day in the dim and distant future will read this account of the dramatic history of the Hellenic community, we who have written this account not only on paper, but in the blood, sweat and tears of our daily lives make this statement:*

*We have built this community with its hopes and its fears, and its land and its buildings because we believe, as did our forefathers, in the soul's immortality, and its eventual union with God.*

*We believe that whether or not we have amassed a great deal of personal wealth or fame, it matters little, since we could not take that with us. What does matter is how we have discharged our obligation to pass on to you the faith and ideals that have sustained us through our lives... and we venture the hope that as you read these lines, you may breathe a prayer that what we have done here may have found favor in the eyes of God.*

### Praying the Bible in the Liturgy...

Orthodox Christians are not merely to read the Bible; we are also to pray the Bible. This takes place most clearly and completely in the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom on a Sunday to Sunday basis. Yes, there are two readings from the New Testament during the Liturgy – an Epistle reading from one of the Letters of the apostles Paul, Peter, James and John or other apostolic writings; and a Gospel reading from one of the four evangelists – but we pray the Lord's Prayer and also sing verses from the Book of Psalms.

In the priest's blessing, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all," we hear St. Paul's final farewell to the Church in Corinth (2 Corinthians 13:13); and in the choir's singing of "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Sabaoth, Heaven and Earth are full of Your glory," we hear the song of the angelic cherubim first heard by the Old Testament prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-5) in the Temple in Jerusalem.

The prayers of the Liturgy are full of biblical imagery and shot through with hundreds of Biblical quotes. In fact, the late French Orthodox theologian, Paul Evdokimov (1902-1970), once calculated that there are 98 quotations from the Old Testament and 114 quotations from the New Testament woven into the prayers of the Liturgy. The language of the Liturgy is the language of the Bible! To come to Liturgy attentively is to learn to pray the Bible!

But more than this: the priesthood, the vestments, the altar, the tabernacle, the oil lamps, the incense, and so much else of the Church's structures for worship are taken from the Old Testament Scriptures, particularly Exodus, Leviticus and the Book of Psalms, and are seen as the Christological fulfillment of the worship of the people of ancient Israel in both the synagogue and the Temple as described in the New Testament's Letter to the Hebrews. Every aspect of the Old Testament Passover/Exodus has been fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Christ and this is what we celebrate at each Divine Liturgy!